

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 34 of 1877.]

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th August 1877.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	" Bhárat Shramjíbí "	Baráhanagar ...	4,000	Shrában, 1284 B. S.
2	" Rajshahye Sambád "	Rajshahye ...	.....
3	" Grámbártá Prakáshiká "	Comercolly ...	200	
Weekly.				
4	" Banga Hitaishí "	Bhowanipore ...	.....	13th August 1877.
5	" Bishwa Dút "	Táligunj, Calcutta ..	.....	15th ditto.
6	" Bishwa Suhrid "	Mymensingh ...	450	16th ditto.
7	" Bhárat Mihir "	Do. ...	658	
8	" Bhárat Sangskárák "	Calcutta ...	.....	13th ditto.
9	" Bengal Advertiser "	Do. ...	.....	19th ditto.
10	" Dacca Prakásh "	Dacca ...	400	
11	" Education Gazette "	Hooghly ...	1,168	17th ditto.
12	" Moorshedabad Pratinidhi "	Berhampore ...	.....	17th ditto.
13	" Pratikár "	Do. ...	235	17th ditto.
14	" Grámbártá Prakáshiká "	Comercolly ...	200	18th ditto.
15	" Sambád Bháskar "	Calcutta ...	.....	18th ditto.
16	" Sulabha Samáchár "	Do ...	3,000	
17	" Sádharaní "	Chinsurah ...	516	18th ditto.
18	" Hindu Hitaishiní "	Dacca ...	300	
19	" Samáj Darpan "	Calcutta ...	460	17th ditto.
20	" Soma Prakásh "	Bhowanipore ...	700	20th ditto.
21	" Sahachar "	Calcutta ...	.....	13th ditto.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	BENGALI—(continued).			
	<i>Weekly—(continued).</i>			
22	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Bauleah, Rajshahye	.....	15th August 1877.
23	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh"	Kákiníá, Rungpore	250	16th ditto.
24	"Burdwan Pracháriká"	Burdwan	165	
	<i>Daily.</i>			
25	"Sambád Prabhákar"	Calcutta	550	
26	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya"	Do.	.....	18th to 24th August.
27	"Samáchar Chandriká"	Do.	.....	14th, 17th, and 22nd August.
28	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Do.	652	18th to 24th August.
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
29	"Amrita Bazar Patriká"	Do.	2,217	16th August.
30	"Howrah Hitakarí"	Bethar, Howrah	300	19th ditto.
31	"Moorshedabad Patriká"	Berhampore	.....	17th ditto.
32	"Burrisal Bártábaha"	Burrisal	300	
	ENGLISH AND URDU.			
33	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	18th ditto.
	URDU.			
	<i>Bi-monthly.</i>			
34	"Akhhár-ul-Akhiár"	Mozufferpore	.....
	HINDI.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>			
35	"Behár Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna...	509	22nd ditto.
	PERSIAN.			
36	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Calcutta	250	

INDIAN AND FOREIGN POLITICS.

IN its review of the ceremony of the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, *Rajshahye Sambad*, of Shrāban last, makes the following observations:—The durbar at Delhi, following so close upon the Prince of Wales' visit, has occasioned an extravagant expenditure of public funds. Lakhs of rupees have been wasted on idle festivals and fireworks, while valuable presents have been sent to England with the Prince. But no good commensurate with this vast outlay has accrued to India;—nay, the glitter of superficial prosperity, which greeted His Royal Highness while here, has been rather injurious to her interests. Her poverty, wants, and grievances were concealed from him.

2. Adverting to the rumour that His Royal Highness Prince Arthur intends to visit India, the same paper observes that it would be exceedingly gratifying to the natives, if the country were honored by Her Majesty accompanying him on this occasion. To them, intensely loyal as they are, such an event will afford matter for sincere rejoicing. It were also to be wished that Her Majesty appointed the Prince to be the permanent ruler of India. Considering that she has assumed the title of "Empress of India," and that at the present day, owing to telegraph and other improved means of communication, England has been brought, as it were, nearer to this country, the proposal is not so impracticable as it might otherwise seem. Both politically and financially it is free from objections. Much discontent and heartburning will cease, if this suggestion be carried out. The people, as well as the native princes, will be gratified, and the expenses of administration will diminish.

3. The *Sahachar*, of the 13th August, dwells on the importance of securing the attachment of natives of India to the Government by a just administration, in prospect of a possible Russian invasion of the country. It is to be regretted that although Government is liberal in its professions to natives, its practice is far otherwise. An invidious distinction is made between them and Europeans in all departments of the administration; it exists even in the law courts. Fuller cases are frequent. A people are not properly governed by mere intimidation. If it is really desired to secure the attachment of the natives, Government should give them their rights, and cease to make any distinction between them and Europeans. The loyalty of 200 millions of native subjects is the best answer to Russophobia.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

4. The *Bhārat Sangskarak*, of the 13th August, makes the following remarks in the course of an article, which is a review of the last administration report of the Calcutta and Suburban hospitals:—The number of patients treated here, during the year under review, shows a decrease. Government, however, in its resolution on the report, does not assign any reason for this; nor are we, from observing the data furnished in one year, in a position to arrive at any definite conclusion regarding the subject. It is not, however, unlikely that, considering the increasing prevalence of the homeopathic system of treatment in cities and towns, allopathy should have lost its hold upon the people; and that this may be one reason why the hospitals are not now so frequently resorted to as formerly.

RAJSHAHYE SAMBAD,
Shrāban, 1284 B.S.

RAJSHAHYE SAMBAD.

SAHACHAR,
August 13th, 1877.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
August 13th, 1877.

It appears from the statistics given that the great majority of the patients consist of Europeans and East Indians.

The number of European and East Indian patients larger than natives.

This is owing to two causes, viz. (1) they receive far better and more careful treatment than natives, and (2) they do not, like natives, feel it inconvenient to live in the hospitals.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
August 13th, 1877.

5. We extract the following observations from an editorial in the same paper headed the "Calcutta Municipality and Mr. Eden." The way in which the elected Commissioners have worked during the last seven or eight months augurs considerable good for the future. We are therefore

The action of the new Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality justified.

surprised to notice that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor does not regard them with favour. We have known Mr. Eden as a wise, experienced, and liberal-minded person; but, from the expressions used in the resolution, he appears to have brought himself down to the level of certain Anglo-Indian editors, who hate natives and advocate the cause of Englishmen. Who will deny that the elected Commissioners are really the representatives and mouth-pieces of the citizens? There are few who, in point of ability or a desire to benefit the rate-payers, can come up to Dr. Rájendra Lal Mittra, the Hon'ble Krista Dás Pál, or Babu Surendra Náth Banerjee; and because among the new Commissioners, Babu Surendra Nath and some of his compeers happen to be young men, are they to be blamed for their youth? Is it because, impatient of wrong, they freely remonstrated against it, that they have been reproved as being ambitious, and seeking the reputation of public speakers? His Honor has not been able to deny that there has been progress and regularity noticeable in the administration of the municipality during the period under review; why, then, is the elective system regarded with so much disfavour?

The truth is that, although by the introduction of this system real improvement has been made possible in the case of the citizens, still the European community find it injurious to an undue promotion of their interests. Officials, like Sir Stuart Hogg, have long indulged in reckless and extravagant expenditure of the municipal funds, and supported their own protégés without meeting with any opposition; if any of the members opposed him, he soon ceased to be a member. Hitherto the most part of the municipal income has been expended at the pleasure of the Europeans for the improvement of the quarters inhabited by them; while a trifling outlay was made for the same purpose on behalf of the native quarters of the city. It is but natural that, under the election system, the number of native Commissioners should be larger than formerly. This it is which accounts for the disfavour with which the system is regarded by the Europeans, who have from its commencement shewn a dislike towards it. The native Commissioners, as soon as they set about their work, reduced the pay of the Chairman by Rs. 500 a month; such rashness must indeed be intolerable to the Europeans, while it is no wonder that the Chairman, who is thus a loser, should, though not professedly, yet at heart be angry with them. He has not, in his annual report, failed to reprove them. The Health Officer, too, is angry; for they have not approved of his proposals, which, if carried out, would waste the income of the municipality. He has not therefore been slow to express his dissatisfaction for their alleged obstructiveness to the sanitary improvement of the city, proceeding from their inability to comprehend difficult scientific questions. To the Anglo-Indian papers, who are ever ready to cry down the elective system, this has been a golden opportunity for exposing its defects. In short, it is clear that the European community will not rest satisfied until the despotic rule

of Sir Stewart Hogg's days is brought back; for to act according to the public opinion of the rate-payers means considerable hardship to them. It is, however, a matter of shame and regret that, from a desire to favour the interests of the European community, Government should become an advocate of despotism. Since it has begun to regard the elective system with disfavour, it must be abolished sooner or later. We, however, respectfully beseech Government not to be hasty in making any changes. A period of five, if not ten, years should be allowed for the working of the present system; and if, after its termination, it is found expedient to abolish it, let the public opinion of all the citizens, and not of the Europeans only, be first ascertained with a view to the adoption of any new measure.

6. We extract the following observations, made by the *Sahachar* of the 13th August, in an article headed the

SAHACHAR,
August 13th, 1877.

The Calcutta Municipality.

"Lieutenant-Governor and the Calcutta Municipality." Whatever may be said by others, we freely admit that we are pleased with the new Commissioners for the way in which they have worked. There is, however, no doubt that the European community do not regard them with favor. The municipality was formerly entirely their own; they were all in all in it; the recent changes, therefore, have not satisfied them. And, perhaps simply because Mr. Eden is an Englishman, he too shares in this feeling; otherwise, how could he, as he has done, have plainly said that the municipality has not worked well, owing to the small number of Europeans in it? Who told him that it is not working well? We would not credit these remarks of Mr. Eden, although, instead of being, as he is, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, he were the ruler of the heavens too. We are not prepared to give credence to such disparaging remarks about the new Commissioners, even though a hundred Edens with a hundred mouths had given utterance to them. We are not prepared to ignore what we have seen with our own eyes. It is the desire of His Honor that the larger number of the Commissioners should be Europeans. There is, however, no ground for the realization of his hopes as long as the present system continues in force. We shall, of course, proceed with caution while the elective power remains in our hands. The Government nominees may all be Europeans. We have no objection to that—they may be Englishmen, or, for the matter of that, Mughls as well. Such Commissioners are in a manner slaves of Government; we do not for a moment believe that they will ever act contrary to its wishes, that is, those of the Chairman. One year's experience of their conduct tells us we cannot expect any good from such subservient members. The elected Commissioners, on the contrary, will feel it a duty to watch the interests of the rate-payers, as otherwise they would be guilty of a breach of trust. The Lieutenant-Governor is displeased with the young Commissioners for such grave faults as that they oppose the Chairman and possess the gift of eloquence. It is, however, to be regretted that the most laudable qualification that a member of a public body can possess—one which has made the Fawcetts and Brights the ornaments of the British Parliament—has, in the case of these few native members, become quite a ground of reproach. Now we happen to know these young men; and have no hesitation in saying that they are ornaments of the Calcutta Municipality. His Honor may write volumes of minutes and resolutions against them, but we shall not heed him; courage, plain speaking, and eloquence are the three most important qualifications, for the possession of which we respect Dr. Rájendra Lál Mittra, the Hon'ble Krista Dás Pál, and Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee; while it is precisely these which the

Lieutenant-Governor desires to banish from the municipality. It is really hard to comprehend human nature. His Honor adverts to the inexperience of the new members. While admitting the usefulness of experience in municipal matters, we beg to ask Mr. Eden who told him that the new members were devoid of all experience? We admit that the old members are more experienced than the new; but are municipal affairs so difficult of handling that they cannot even be learnt? Since raw civilians of 25 or 26 years of age are believed to be competent to rule over districts, each of which is in extent a small kingdom: cannot a native of 30 years of age be credited with ability to take part with others in the municipal affairs of a city? The new members are working admirably, and we firmly believe that they will go on improving, as Mr. Eden will doubtless acknowledge some day. We hope His Honor will henceforth see with his own eyes and hear with his own ears, and not place implicit reliance on the administration reports. His Honor's remarks referring to the action of the Health Officer are fully approved of by the writer.

BANGA HITAIISHI,
August 13th, 1877.

7. On the same subject, the *Banga Hitaishi*, of the 13th August, remarks as follows:—It is really a matter of surprise that, although the

The Calcutta Municipality.

administration of the Calcutta Municipality was conducted with great success during the last year, Mr. Eden is not satisfied with the Commissioners. His Honor is opposed to the elective system, on the ground that really competent and respectable men, whether Native or European, do not like to work with the elected members; and hence they shun the elections. But it may be asked whether those natives, who do not desire to be elected by their fellow-countrymen and serve them, are fit to be their representatives? At any rate, we do not want them. As to the Europeans, why should they be unwilling to work with the elected members? They are accustomed so to work. Considering, moreover, that in England they occupy a common position, it is strange that in India they should become so purse-proud as to feel it beneath their dignity to work with the representatives of the people.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
August 14th, 1877.

8. On the same subject, the *Samachar Chandrika*, of the 14th August, remarks:—By his observations on the new Commissioners of the Calcutta

Calcutta Municipality.

Municipality, Mr. Eden has lost much of the esteem and respect in which the people had hitherto held him. His views on the subject of elective system are quite opposed to those entertained by the native papers and many members of the Anglo-Indian Press. There are not now, as formerly, any *ápkáwasie* members in the Calcutta Municipality, who would cry ditto to every word of the Chairman. The present members often remonstrate with him against any measure. This fact, joined to the circumstance that the number of European Commissioners is small, has greatly enraged His Honor. His cruel remarks have pained the Commissioners, who have laboured assiduously during the last year for the benefit of the citizens.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
August 16th, 1877.

9. We extract the following from an article in the *Amrita Bazar*

The epidemic fever.

Patrika, of the 16th August, headed "Rajah Digambar Mittra and the epidemic fever":—

Mr. Eden has at last felt himself obliged to accept the conclusions of Rajah Digambar Mittra on this subject. He has directed the attention of all Magistrates to the need of removing obstructions to drainage, which might have caused the unhealthiness of any village. We are not sorry that the people have been in a manner made liable for the expenses of carrying out this order: they will gladly bear them. Ever since Mr. Eden assumed the

governorship of this province, his public acts have given offence to some one class of the subjects. Although by his Public Works Cess Act he has pleased the Indian Government and the European community, still to the natives it has been an unmitigated evil. His refusal to pardon Hridaya Pátra and Jadunáth Ganguli might have gratified those who advocate a rigorous system of administration, but many were pained by it. By conferring some high appointments on natives, he has been popular with some sections of the native community; but his recognition of the truth of Rajah Digambar Mitra's theory of fever has given universal satisfaction.

10. A correspondent of the same paper sends highly eulogistic accounts of the public acts of Mr. Kirkwood, the present Joint-Magistrate of Jessore. His courtesy and impartiality are remarkable, and he seems to be quite an altered man.

The virtues of Mr. Kirkwood of Jessore.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
August 16th, 1877.

11. Adverting to the discussions, going on in the *Englishman* and the *Hindoo Patriot*, as to the value of the education imparted to minors under the Court of Wards, and the fitness or otherwise of Dr. Rájendra Lál Mitra to be its superintendent, the *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 16th August, makes the following observations:—It is almost impossible to get an abler man than Dr. Mitra to fill the post of Director of the institution. If any one deserves it, it is he. We are, however, constrained to add, with regret, that, with the single exception of Rajah Pramatha Nath, not one of those who have been educated there has fulfilled public expectation as to their ability or character. Not a single ward is turned out well educated; some indeed leave the institution with a ruined moral character. But this is not due to any fault of the Doctor. A thorough reform should be introduced. Unmindful of the changes which have taken place with the progress of time, Dr. Mitra still continues to act according to the old rules prescribed in the Revenue Board's circulars. The severity of the discipline maintained rather stupifies than develops the mental faculties of the wards. Another defect of the institution is that no moral instruction is imparted. It is therefore no wonder that when they come of age, they should appear to the society in which they move as fearfully evil.

The education of the minors under the Court of Wards.

BHARAT MIHIR,
August 16th, 1877.

12. The same paper writes a long editorial, in which the importance and advantages of a railway in Eastern Bengal are dwelt upon. The editor reminds His Honor of his promise to further such a scheme, should the co-operation of the local public be sufficient to enable him to do so.

A railway in Eastern Bengal.

BHARAT MIHIR.

13. The *Samáj Darpan*, of the 17th August, directs the attention of the authorities to the oppressions committed by the officers at the toll ghâts, on the crews of boats which ply in the Calcutta canals. By wickedly closing up the mouth of the canals occasionally, by beating the crew, by unjust and arbitrary measurements of the boats, and by issuing false tickets, navigation in the canals has been rendered almost impracticable. These underlings at the toll stations defraud both Government and the mahajuns.

Oppressions at the toll stations on the Calcutta Canals.

SAMAJ DARPAN,
August 17th, 1877.

14. In an article headed the "Association of the Indigo Planters of Behar," the *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 18th August, makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 13 of our last report.

Indigo Planters of Behar.

HINDU HITASHINI,
August 18th, 1877.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
August 18th, 1877.

15. Adverting to the Lieutenant-Governor's strictures on the Vernacular Press, the *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 18th August, remarks:—Ever since the days of Sir George Campbell, the Native Press has been constantly abused. Ignored everywhere else, it is somewhat gratifying to us to find ourselves thus

Native Press not disloyal.

noticed by the highest rulers in the land. Mr. Eden's observations are, however, open to much criticism. He has asked the educated natives to undertake the conduct of newspapers. He therefore ought to know that there is very little of loyalty among men of this class; most of them are in their hearts dissatisfied with Government. Nor are the editors of native newspapers the common and worthless characters His Honor is pleased to consider them. Some of them are plain spoken, occasionally write without much thought, but all of them are not disloyal. They represent one or other section of the native community. That the peasantry are in a prosperous condition, and that the native prints constantly vilify the officers in the mofussil, are not wholly true. His Honor should not draw such hasty inferences from observing a limited number of cases. Government seems to visit the sins of the *Amrita Bazar Patriká* on the head of the native papers in general. Let the authorities but pay a little regard to the vernacular newspapers, and the excesses of their tone and style will disappear.

SOMA PRAKASH,
August 20th, 1877.

16. We take the following from an article in the *Soma Prakásh*, of the 20th August, headed the "Durbar at Belvedere and the vernacular newspapers":—In season or out of season, the Native Press has become a constant subject of abuse. During the recent durbar at Belvedere Mr. Eden abused

Native Press not disloyal.

it, though the occasion does not seem to have been a suitable one. From the remarks made

by His Honor respecting the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality, and his utterances on the occasion of the late durbar, it appears to be his opinion that we should, without starting any objections, quietly approve of all that the authorities may do; no matter whether it be right or wrong. In that case only, would he regard us as loyal and peaceful; otherwise, we should be taxed as being disloyal and seditious. We did not know that Mr. Eden was so proud of his position. It is curious that while his predecessor, Sir Richard Temple, described the Native Press as loyal, he regards it as being quite the contrary. Whom shall we believe, then? Lord Lytton would never have generously invited us to Delhi had we been disloyal. We want Mr. Eden to prove his assertion as to the seditious character of the writings of the Native Press, as also to know what he means by loyalty and its opposite. We do not admit the truth of the charges he has brought against us. Mr. Eden would be justified in adequately reproving us as rebels, and not only reproving, but punish us as such, if we had sought to overturn the Government, or advised the people to take up arms against it, or even if we had said that Englishmen ought to be driven from the country and Russia become its sovereign. We constantly warn the rulers against a Russian invasion. Wherein are we then disloyal? We indeed occasionally make remarks, when we notice any faults or wrongs committed by Government or its officers. Is this a sign of our disloyalty and sedition? If that be the case, Mr. Eden has quite misunderstood us. We write of virtues as well as faults. The charge of ingratitude is also untrue. We do not miss a single opportunity of expressing our gratitude for the good done to this country by men like Lord William Bentinck, Lord Canning, and Sir John Peter Grant. If Mr. Eden does not believe this, we refer him to the files of the *Soma Prakásh*. The gratitude of no other people is so

readily earned as that of the natives of this country. This is a peculiar trait of the Bengali character. Does Mr. Eden want to ignore it? Do we not ourselves furnish ample evidence of this? We are prepared to make hundreds of extracts from the back numbers of this paper in support of our assertions. Does Government mean to see an abuse made of the noble gift of the freedom of the Press in this country? A friend only points out faults. The notorious Kirkwood has now become quite an altered man, doubtless owing to the rough treatment he received at the hands of the Press. We appeal to His Honor himself sincerely to say whether he does not consider it a fact, that most of the officers treat natives insolently. Is not an invidious distinction really made between them and Europeans?

As to the condition of the ryots, we do not remember an instance of a native paper maintaining that the condition of the cultivator continues to be as miserable as before; that they are on the point of starvation; or that they continue to be as much oppressed as formerly. There is no doubt that the condition of the ryot has considerably improved; but that improvement has not been brought about by any efforts on the part of the rulers: it is due to an increased exportation and the higher prices which their commodities fetch in the market. Neither Government nor the zemindars have done anything to bring about this result, by fostering agriculture or improving the land. The ryot, as before, is steeped in poverty; the failure of one crop brings him to the point of starvation. Nor have the oppressions totally ceased to exist. The occurrence of the Pubna ryots and the murders of the zemindars Babus Nabín Chandra Nág and Púrna Chandra Roy clearly shows this. The efforts of Sir George Campbell, and of Sir Richard Temple after him, to prevent agrarian disputes by means of legislation, prove that oppressions have not ceased to exist. There are indeed courts of law; but to seek their protection from the rapacity of the zemindar would be much like seeking refuge in a tiger's den after having fled from the pursuit of a hunter. The ryot may survive the occasional blows of the zemindar; but he is ruined if he goes to law.

According to Mr. Eden, the native papers are conducted by a worthless class of men without learning or influence. We do not know what to say to this remark; but one thing may be asked him. If the native papers are insignificant, why is he so much offended with them? Why was the subject at all referred to on an unsuitable occasion? He might reply that, as a friend of Bengal, it pained him to see the reputation which the people enjoyed for loyalty destroyed by the Native Press; and hence the reference to the subject. But if this Press is insignificant, it could not possibly destroy the reputation of the people. There are many worthless men in Bengal who commit wicked deeds; but does the good name of the country suffer on that account? We do not see how it is possible for the Rajahs and Roy Bahadurs to check the evil occasioned by the Native Press, since Government itself has not been able to do anything towards it.

We shall conclude with a few more observations. We have no disaffection towards the British Government, and believe that no other foreign Government occupies such a high moral position. Mr. Eden, therefore, should not regard our occasional criticisms as dictated by a disloyal feeling. Being Bengalis and descendants of Aryans, the Aryan morality has greater attraction for us than the British. It is an Aryan maxim, that the "faults even of a superior should be pointed out." We act according to this maxim, when we expose any defects of the Government, in the hope of seeing them removed; so that the people might not be put to any difficulty. But to speak the

truth, we have no respect for certain officials. Let them first be worthy of respect; and we shall respect them. Attachment does not come of compulsion. Mr. Eden has given us advice as a friend; we too advise him as a friend to give up the policy according to which he means to govern Bengal; for adherence to it will never bring him popularity. Let him tread in the footsteps of Sir Richard Temple. He has hitherto given himself out and acted as a friend of Bengal; but he seems to have lost his former energy and vigor of intelligence. In the few acts and propositions which he has passed, since his assumption of office, all the symptoms of senility are visible. He is therefore no longer fit to occupy the seat of Sir Richard Temple. Bengal of to-day is no longer the country which he saw in his youth. He is fit to govern Bengal as it was at that period. The Bengalis have now learnt their rights and privileges and duties. They are no longer prepared to acquiesce in everything done by the authorities. We have now, even so early as this, got a foretaste of the happiness which Mr. Eden's rule will confer upon the country. It therefore behoves him to bid farewell to the land. He should inquire whether those to whom he addressed his speech felt themselves gratified or insulted by it. Was it to insult the Bengalis that this durbar was held? Was the opportunity, offered by the absence of Sir Richard Temple, used in this grateful way? We again say that the man who does not understand the fitness of things, is not competent to rule over Bengal. Former viceroys had indeed found this out, when his juniors were preferred before Mr. Eden and raised to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal.

SOMA PRAKASH,
August 20th, 1877.

17. The same paper regrets an increase of litigation among the Sonthals—a simple people, who were quite ignorant of it before.

Litigation among the Sonthals.

BEHAR BANDHU,
August 22nd, 1877.

18. The *Behar Bandhu* complains of the constant changes in the law; before one enactment can be digested, another is on the anvil and the former one annulled.

Amendments of laws.

The Limitation Act has thrice been changed, the last being Act XV of 1877, and it already abrogates section 599 and part of section 601 of Act X of 1877, the Civil Procedure Code, which does not come into operation till the 1st October next.

LOCAL GRIEVANCES.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
August 13th, 1877.

19. The Barahanagar correspondent of the *Bhārat Sangskārak*, of the 13th August, complains that the pound-keeper of the place took an illegal gratification from the Gosains, the party whose cattle was impounded, but has not been punished.

Illegal gratification taken by the pound-keeper of Barahanagar.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

20. In a letter communicated to this paper, the writer complains against the action of the members composing the Harinabhi Bench Court, which has been recently formed at Harinabhi. The poor rate-payers under the Rajpore Municipality are sorely harassed by them. In their last few sittings, not a single defendant has been able to escape without a fine. This is said to be due to the desire of the members to raise, by means of fines, the amount necessary for the expenses of their journey. The writer then narrates two cases, in one of which certain hackney carriage drivers, and in another certain rate-payers, were unjustly fined; the latter for disobeying a notice to clear away some jungle, though it was never served upon them.

The action of the Harinabhi Bench Court.

21. The *Sahachar*, of the 13th August, notices in its columns of news, **Outbreak of malarious fever in a fearful outbreak of malarious fever in Konnagar, Rishira, Bâli, and adjacent villages.** This is the fourth year of the plague. There is not a single family which has escaped it. We fear the number of deaths will be large this time. In former years the disease raged most in October and November; this time it has appeared during the rains. Many are coming to Calcutta for safety.

SAHACHAR,
August 13th, 1877.

22. The *Soma Prakâsh*, of the 20th August, complains that Government has made the municipalities a means of effecting a saving in its expenditure, and illustrates the remark by referring to the case of the Rajpore Municipality. The collections amount to Rs. 300 in six quarters. The condition of the roads is extremely wretched; being pools of mud knee-deep. A sum of Rs. 8 only has been lately expended towards repairs. The members constantly plead a want of funds. To add to their difficulty, Government has now thrown upon the municipality the cost of repairing the Rajpore feeder road to the railway, though in justice the work should be paid for by the State.

SOMA PRAKASH,
August 20th, 1877.

FAMINE.

23. In an editorial headed "Famine in Southern India and the sacrifice required of Bengal," the *Sahâchar*, of the 13th August, makes almost the same observations as those noticed in paragraph 30 of our last report. The editor earnestly appeals to all classes of the people and their associations to raise subscriptions and come to the help of the famine-stricken in Madras.

SAHACHAR,
August 13th, 1877.

24. Adverting to the severity of the distress in Madras, the *Amrita Bazar Patrikâ*, of the 16th August, observes that the natives of India can not any longer afford to relieve the distress of others. The country has become so impecunious, that one finds it difficult even to support his family. Bengal, the richest province of India, presents the same spectacle. Almost 90, out of every 100 respectable families, are encumbered with debt. Government drains the country of its resources. It is her poverty which accounts for this constant recurrence of famines; and if Government proceeds at this rate to impoverish her, the scenes of Madras and Bombay will be acted over all India. High rates of rent leave absolutely nothing in the hands of the subjects; and it is idle to expect them to make contributions in aid of the famine-stricken. It is the duty of England, rich with India's wealth, to suppress this Madras famine.

*AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,*
August 16th, 1877.

25. A correspondent of the same paper dwells on the distress of the inhabitants of Dakhin, Shabazpore, brought about by (1) famine, (2) poverty, (3) stoppage of agricultural operations, (4) a faulty administration of justice, and (5) the demands of Government revenue.

*AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.*

26. The *Education Gazette*, of the 17th August, does not see why subscriptions should not be raised in aid of the sufferers in Madras. He exhorts all classes of people in Bengal to come to their aid.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
August 17th, 1877.

BEHAR BANDHU,
August 22nd, 1877.

27. This paper, referring to the dreadful famine in Madras, states that 500,000 lives have been lost since February, and this from neglect arising from the Delhi *Durbár* and the excursion to Simla. Sir Richard Temple was deputed to make inquiries; but from the Government reports, it did not then appear that the famine would turn out so bad. Had precautions been taken in the beginning, the present crisis would not have arrived, and the public would have readily subscribed. The eyes of all have been opened, and the Viceroy has proceeded to the scene. It is doubtful whether subscriptions will now be forthcoming, through commiseration of the sufferers; though fear of the Government, and hope of obtaining titles, may prove an inducement to some to subscribe. Those who have had their wishes already realized in the latter way at the Delhi *Durbár* may subscribe through fear, but these will not be many. Be that as it may, Government should use all its energies to save the lives of its subjects; and this is the reason why God has put Hindustan into the hands of the civilised English nation, that it may act up to its great name and fame.

MISCELLANEOUS.

RAJSHAHYE SAMBÁD,
Shrabān, 1284 B.S.

28. The *Rajshahye Sambád* has a long editorial headed, "Strange Improvement." It is remarked that the books and newspapers produced at the present day are nothing, if they do not smack of English civilization. The country is being ruined by the eagerness of the people to imitate everything that is English. They cry out loudly for progress, and appear as though they could lay down their lives to secure it, But nothing of this is seen in practice. While crying down everything that is of native origin, they extol to the skies the virtues, manners, and customs of Englishmen. Thus, while they are indifferent to the claims of really meritorious natives to public esteem, there is never a lack of efforts to raise subscriptions for the purpose of erecting memorials to Europeans, who may or may not have done any good to the country. It seems to be forgotten that many Englishmen treat a native with less consideration than they do a doll or a pet animal; and that to kill a native is not regarded by them as sinful.

BEHAR BANDHU,
August 22nd, 1877.

29. A correspondent of this paper, signing himself Secretary to the *Chandukháná* (or opium-smoking shop), narrates some occurrences which took place in a *Chandukháná* after some talk about the Russo-Turkish war. One of the men there stated that the Queen was a slave of Abdul Azíz; another wished to know what benefits were derived from the English rule, and received the reply, *chandu and cigars*.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 18th August 1877.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.